

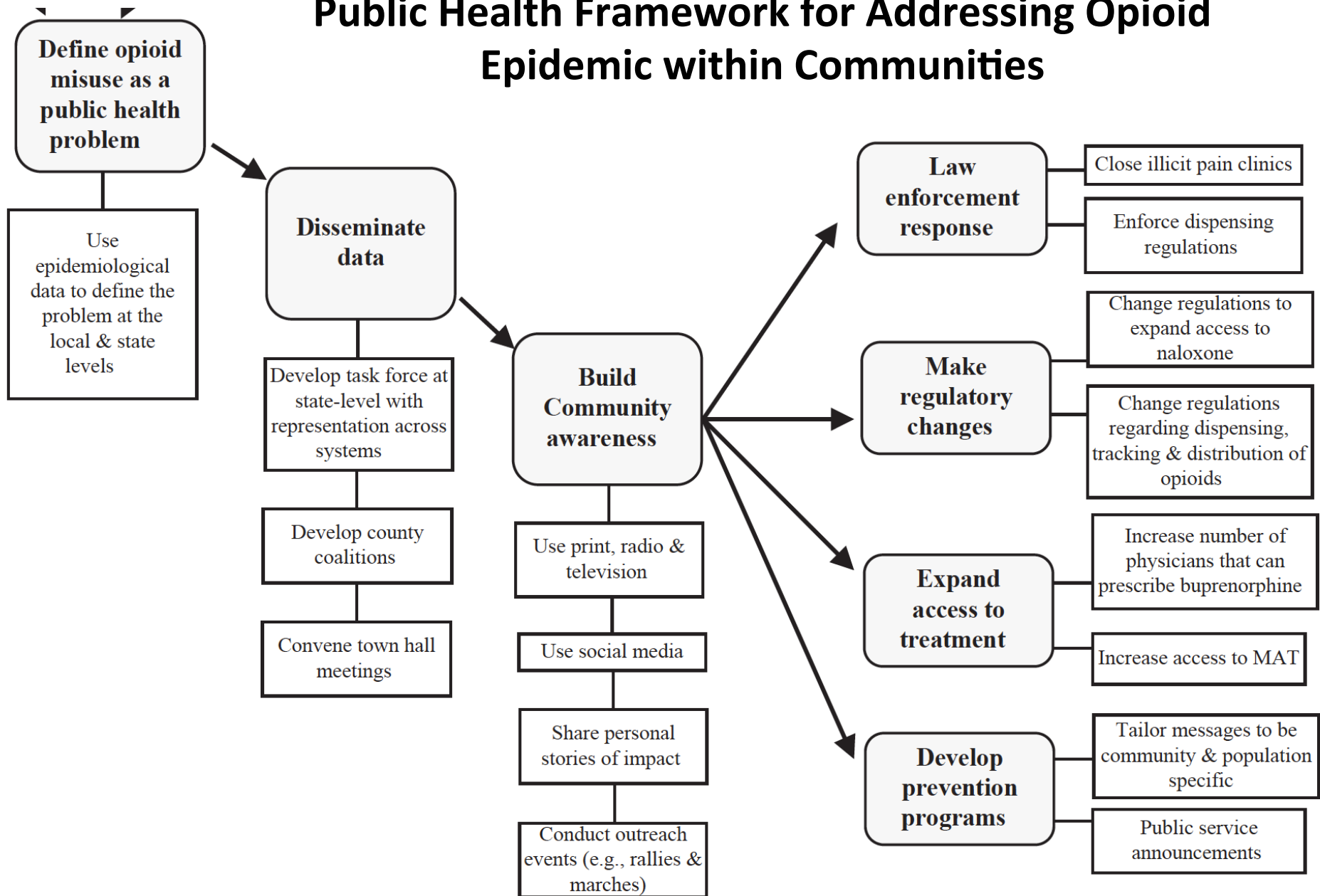
# **Conclusions: Next Steps & Special Considerations**



# Public Health Approach

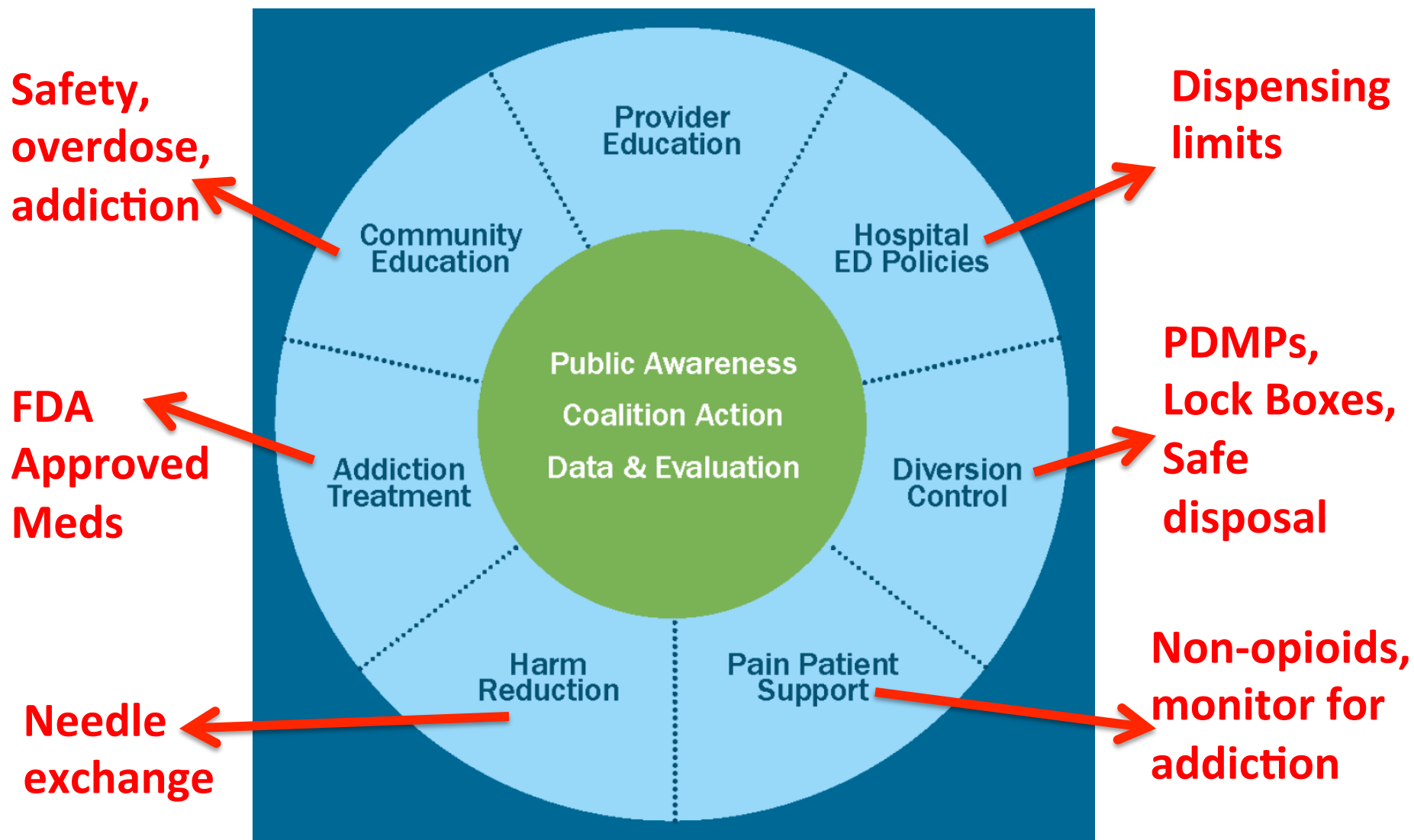
- Collect data at the local level → conduct needs assessment
- Involve community members → form community drug coalitions
- Collaborative effort to tailor evidence-based practices to specific communities

# Public Health Framework for Addressing Opioid Epidemic within Communities



SOURCE: Winstanley et al. (2012) Public Health Nursing

# PROJECT LAZARUS



# What Can You Do?

- Understand addiction as a chronic relapsing brain disease
- Appreciate the challenges that individuals face when seeking prevention & treatment services
- Be compassionate in understanding that people may not want recovery or abstinence when you want them to, don't give up hope
- Work to reduce stigma associated with substance use disorders
- Support expansion of evidence-based prevention & treatment services

# What Can Health Care Providers Do?

- Recommend a medication lock box, particularly if children/adolescents in the home
- Encourage safe disposal of un-used medications
- Educate patients on safe use of prescription medications → risk of overdose or addiction
- Careful consideration in dosing > 80MED OR when co-prescribing opioids & benzodiazepines
- Prescribe naloxone to patients at-risk of a prescription opioid or heroin overdose

# What Can Health Systems Do?

- Implement opioid dispensing guidelines
- Systematically screening/monitoring for non-medical use & opioid use disorders
- Limit opioid dispensing in emergency department
- Develop policies to support and encourage use of PDMP
- Provide drug drop off boxes
- Pain management contracts & random testing for illicit drug/heroin use
- Provide referrals or warm-hand off to addiction treatment programs as needed

# Learn More on Prescribing Naloxone



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PRESCRIBERS PHARMACISTS PATIENT EDUCATION RESEARCH & LEGAL ADVOCACY  
FAQ

New Naloxone and  
Product Comparison

[read more >](#)



[Welcome to PrescribeToPrevent.org](#)



# Drug Testing for Adulterants

- Monitor for novel opioids & heroin adulterants
- Work with your poison control centers, toxicologists to identify and test substances → ensure they are appropriately identified
- Join the NDEWS listserv to learn more



**NDEWS** *National Drug Early Warning System*

Funded at the Center for Substance Abuse Research by the National Institute on Drug Abuse

# Expand Opportunities for Professional Education

- Increase CME opportunities on opioid prevention and treatment for health professionals
- Support expanding educational curriculum on substance use disorders
  - Abuse liability of drugs
  - Screening & brief interventions
  - Training professionals how to approach and discuss drug use with patients
- Require CMEs on substance use disorders for re-certification

# iBook Available for Download

## Evidence-Based Practices to Improve Outcomes for Persons with Opioid Dependence

2015

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